

Application No.: 09/965,644
Response to Office Action dated June 26, 2006
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REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 5, 6, 7, 8 and 48. The amendments to claims 5, 6, 7 and 8 are supported by original claims 5 – 8. The amendment to claim 48 corrects its dependency and is supported throughout this specification, particularly pages 5 – 6. As such, these amendments do not constitute new matter and their entry is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 1, 3, 4, 12 – 16, 47 and 49 are allowed.

Applicants also appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 5 – 8 are free of the prior art.

Claims 5 – 8 and 50 – 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as failing to comply with a written description requirement.

Applicants' amendments to the claims have obviated this rejection. Specifically, claims 5 – 8 have been amended so that they are substantially the same as the original claims. Indeed, in the Office Action dated November 18, 2005, the Examiner at page 2, paragraph 3 indicated that claims substantially the same as claims 5 – 8 complied with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. There was no 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph rejection of such claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment has overcome this rejection.

Claims 17, 48 and 50 – 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims have obviated these rejections. More specifically, claim 48 was rejected because the Examiner indicated there was insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation in the claim. Specifically, it was stated that claim 1, from which claim 48 depended, does not use the term "wedge-shaped microchannels". Claim 48 now depends upon claim 4, which specifies that the microchannels are wedge-shaped.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 48 is allowable.

The cancellation of claims 7 and 50 – 53 have obviated all the rejections and objections dealing with these claims.

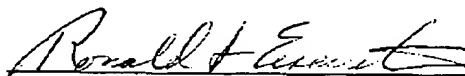
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that, in view of the fact that the Examiner has indicated that all these claims are free of the prior art and that claims 5 – 8 would be allowable if applicants overcame the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 set forth in this Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge fee deficiencies or credit overpayments associated with this submission to the NIXON PEABODY LLP Deposit Account No. 19-2380.

Date: 9/26/06

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